GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1731
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2017
Fake Agencies
Bhaleram Shri Dharambir

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number of fake agencies are functioning in the country which send workers to foreign countries for employment where they get stuck;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps taken by the Government to check functioning of these fake agencies; and

(c) the number of Indian workers stuck in foreign countries and the number of Indian workers returned from there during the last three years, year-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Yes. The Government has been receiving from time to time complaints/grievances from emigrants and their family members/relatives of being cheated by illegal agents. Such complaints are forwarded to concerned State Governments and Police authorities urging them to apprehend illegal agents and prosecute them on the basis of complaints. Wherever required such complaints are also referred to Missions/Posts abroad for providing relief/rescue.

As per the available records, the number of complaints against unregistered agents received and referred to the State Governments during the period of 2012 - 2016 is as under:

Year No. of Complaints Cases referred to State Governments for action Prosecution Sanction sought Prosecution Sanction issued
2012 254 240 16 16
2013 272 261 05 05
2014 170 153 08 08
2015 195 101 11 11
2016 231 231 42 42

Government has also issued a Standard Operating Procedure on 26th May, 2016, to be followed by States on receipt of complaints. The State Governments have also been requested to launch periodic visual and print media campaign creating awareness among people to use the services of Registered Recruiting Agencies, and not to go through Illegal agencies.

(c) Government does not maintain data relating to Indian workers stranded overseas. However, as and when requests from Indian emigrants in distress, are received, the same are forwarded to the concerned Missions/Posts for providing relief and repatriation on an on-going basis. As per information available from Indian Missions & Posts abroad, 16,980 Indian nationals stranded in strife torn countries − Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, Syria & Yemen sought government's support for various reasons and 16,570 were brought back to India, during the last three years as under:

Year 2014 2015 2016 TOTAL
No.of Indians who sought govt. support to return to India
10433
5863
684
16,980
No. of Indians who were brought back to India
10433
5625
512
16,570

As a whole, besides the operation Maitri during the Nepal earthquake, the Government has rescued/brought back more than 80,000

Indian nationals during the last three year period from 2014-16.